Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 07964 181131Z ACTION HA-05

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CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 7964

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: SREF TH LA

SUBJECT: HMONG INFLUX INTO NONG KHAI PROVINCE

FOL MSG RECD ACTION BANGKOK INFO VIENTIANE DTD 150100Z MAR 78 AND BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

CONFIDENTIAL UDORN 0065

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SREF TH LA

SUBJECT: HMONG INFLUX INTO NONG KHAI PROVINCE

REF: UDORN 0059

- 1. CONREP TRAVELLED TO PHON PHISAI AND BUNG KAN DISTRICTS MARCH 14 TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON HMONG REFUGEE SITUATION.
- 2. HE REPORTS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW ARRIVALS OF HMONG REFUGEES DETECTED DURING LAST 48 HOURS, ACCORDING TO POLICE CHIEFS OF BOTH DISTRICTS. HOWEVER, POLICE CHIEFS EXPECT THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF ADDITIONAL HMONG REFUGEES WHO HAVE GATHERED NEAR MEKONG RIVER BORDER CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL ATTEMPT TO ENTER THEIR DISTRICTS DURING NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.

3. DURING INTERVIEW WITH PHON PHISAI DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF LT COL RUNGSAK KLONGSANGSORN, HE TOLD CONREP THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM PROVINCE POLICE HEADQUARTERS INSTRUCTING HIM TO ADOPT A LENIENT ATTITUDE

WITH REGARD TO INCOMING HMONG REFUGEES. LT COL RUNGSAK SAID THAT HE INTERPRETS THIS LETTER TO MEAN THAT HE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT OPPOSE ENTRY OF HMONGS INTO HIS DISTRICT. HE ADDED THAT HE ASSUMES THAT HIS COLLEGUE, BUNG KAN DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF MAJOR MANOP JITTAKASEM, HAS BEEN SENT SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS.

- 4. LATTER HAPPENED TO BE PRESENT IN PHON PHISAI DURING CONREP'S INTERVIEW WITH LT COL RUNGSAK BUT HAVING BEEN AWAY FROM HIS DISTRICT ALL DAY COULD NOT CONFIRM RECEIPT OF SUCH INSTRUCTIONS.
- 5. BOTH LT COL RUNGSAK AND MAJOR MANOP TOLD CONREP THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO SUPPORT TOTAL OF 141 HMONG CURRENTLY BEING DETAINED IN THEIR DISTRICTS WITH FOOD AND OTHER BASIC SUPPLIES. THEY STATED THAT THEY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE FROM VOLAGS OR OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS TO HELP THEM MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF HMONG REFUGEES TEMPORARILY IN THEIR CUSTODY.
- 6. COMMENT: LT COL RUNGSAK'S REPORT OF NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR HE AND MAJOR MANOP, IF CORRECT, IS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT. IT SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR HMONG REFUGEES TO CONDUCT MEKONG RIVER CROSSINGS AND THUS REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF CLASHES WITH LVDR BORDER PATROLS. ONCE CONFIDENTIAL

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WORD SPREADS AMONG HMONG THAT THAIS ARE NOT ACTIVELY OPPOSING THEIR ENTRY INTO PHON PHISAI AND BUNG KAN AREAS, RATE OF HMONG INFLUX MAY INCREASE NOTABLY DURING NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS UNTIL NUMBERS OF TRIBESMEN FLEEING PHU BIA FIGHTING IS DEPLETED.

7. WITH REGARD TO COMMENTS BY DISTRICT POLICE CHIEXS IN PARA FIVE ABOVE, WE WOULD NOTE THAT ACCORDING TO US VOLAG CAMA SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE, HE DISTRIBUTED TOTAL OF 40 EACH MOSQUITO NETS AND SLEEPING MATS, FIVE SACKS OF OLD CLOTHES AND TWO ONE HUNDRED KILO SACKS OF RICE TO HMONG REFUGEES DETAINED AT PHON PHISAI AND BUNG KAN DISTRICT JAILS MARCH 10 AND 11. CAMA SERVICES REP CONFIRMED THAT MORE SUCH SUPPLIES FOR THESE REFUGEES ARE NEEDED. FINNEY WHITEHOUSE

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